

Commissioner for Patents
Serial No.: 10/771,772
Response Date: January 4, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated October 5, 2005
Page 5

REMARKS

I. Status of the Application

Claims 1-19 were filed in the original Application. In the Office Action, the Examiner:

- (a) objected to claims 6-13 and 19 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim;
- (b) objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) for allegedly not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims;
- (c) objected to claims 14 and 15 for grammatical informalities;
- (d) rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,967,319 to Seko ("Seko");
- (e) rejected claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,663,270 to Taniuchi et al. ("Taniuchi"); and
- (f) rejected claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Taniuchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,665,371 to Rynearson ("Rynearson").

In this response, Applicants amend claims 1, 3, 5, and 6, and cancel claims 2, 4, and 14-19. Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing amendments and following remarks incorporated herein overcome the Examiner's rejections and objections to the Application.

II. No New Matter Is Introduced by Way of Amendment

Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by amending claims 1, 3, 5, and 6. Applicants amended claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of original claim 6 (Office Action, p. 7) and to incorporate the limitations of original claim 2. In view of this amendment, Applicants canceled claim 2. Applicants amended claim 6 in order to rewrite it

Commissioner for Patents
Serial No.: 10/771,772
Response Date: January 4, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated October 5, 2005
Page 6

in independent form by incorporating the limitations of original independent claim 4. In view of the amendment to claim 6, original claim 4 has been canceled. In addition, Applicants amended claim 3 so that it properly depended from claim 1 instead of canceled claim 2 and amended claim 5 so that it properly depended from claim 6 instead of cancelled claim 4. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments are supported by the originally filed Application and do not add new matter. Accordingly, Applicants request that the amendments be entered and that the Application proceed to allowance.

III. The Objection to Claims 6-13 and 19 Should be Withdrawn

The Examiner objected to claims 6-13 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but acknowledged that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form (Office Action, p. 7). Based on this conclusion, Applicants amended original claim 6 to incorporate the claimed subject matter of original independent claim 4. Applicants amended claim 5 to properly depend from amended claim 6 and canceled claim 4. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 6 no longer depends from a rejected base claim and is in allowable form. Applicants also respectfully submit that claims 7-13 are in allowable form because they depend from and incorporate all the limitations of allowable base claim 6. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objections to claims 6-13 and allow claims 6-13 to proceed to allowance.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to claim 19 is now moot and should be withdrawn because claim 19 has been canceled.

IV. The Objection to the Drawings Should be Withdrawn

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) alleging that the drawings "must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims," and that "the focal point and optical axis in claim 4, and the plurality of teeth extended toward the vacant center of the ring in claim 19 must be shown, or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s)" (Office Action, page 2). Applicants respectfully traverse this objection as it is not necessary to show the limitations listed as missing by the Examiner because it would be understood by one skilled in the art that (a) reflectors have a focal point and an optical axis, and (b) the teeth shown in the figures could be placed on the inner portion of the ring. 37 C.F.R. § 1.81(a) (Drawings are only required when necessary for the understanding of the subject matter to be patented). In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that the optical axis is indeed specified in the drawings, labeled as "620" in Fig. 7, and supported by the specification as "optical axis 620" (Application, page 2, lines 11 and 17-18). Moreover, none of the amended claims contain express limitations regarding the focal point and teeth placed on the inner portion of the ring. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR § 1.83(a) be withdrawn.

V. The Objections to Claims 14 and 15 are Should be Withdrawn

Applicants respectfully submit that the objections to claims 14 and 15 are now moot because these claims have been canceled. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to these claims be withdrawn.

VI. The Rejection of Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as Allegedly Being Anticipated by Seiko Should be Withdrawn

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Seko. A rejection under §102(b) can be overcome by either persuasively arguing that the claims are patentably distinguishable or amending the claims to be patentably distinguishable from the prior art." MPEP § 706.02(b). Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as amended, contains patentable subject matter and should proceed to allowance. Applicants amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter identified as patentable by the Examiner from original claim 6 (Office Action, p. 7). Applicants respectfully submit that the incorporation of the allowable subject matter in amended claim 1 patentably distinguishes claim 1 from Seko, because as noted by the Examiner none of the cited prior art discloses the subject matter of claim 6. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn and claim 1 be allowed. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn because claims 2 and 4 have been canceled and claims 3 and 5 have been amended to depend from and incorporate all the limitations of claims 1 and 6, respectively.

Commissioner for Patents
Serial No.: 10/771,772
Response Date: January 4, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated October 5, 2005
Page 9

VII. The Rejection of Claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as Allegedly Being Anticipated by Taniuchi Should be Withdrawn

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) are moot and should be withdrawn because claims 14 and 15 have been canceled.

VIII. The Rejection of Claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as Allegedly Being Obvious Over Taniuchi et al. in View of Rynearson Should be Withdrawn

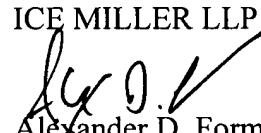
Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are moot and should be withdrawn because the claims have been canceled.

Commissioner for Patents
Serial No.: 10/771,772
Response Date: January 4, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated October 5, 2005
Page 10

CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the Applicants have made a patentable contribution to the art and that this response places the Application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3, and 5-13 of this Application is respectfully requested. In the event the Applicants have inadvertently overlooked the need for a payment of a fee, the Applicants conditionally petitions therefor, and authorize any fee deficiency to be charged to deposit account 09-0007. When doing so, please reference the above-listed docket number.

Respectfully submitted,

ICE MILLER LLP

Alexander D. Forman
Registration No.: 51,691
ICE MILLER LLP
One American Square, Suite 3100
Indianapolis, Indiana 46282-0200
(317) 236-2100

ADF/MCR
Enclosures: Transmittal Sheet
Return Postcard